

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 192

By Curcio

A RESOLUTION to honor Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Thomas Woodall on the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in recognizing one of the most gifted jurists this State has ever produced, namely Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Thomas Woodall of Dickson; and

WHEREAS, Judge Woodall took a much-deserved retirement on December 31, 2020, after twenty-four years of dedicated and insightful service on the Court of Criminal Appeals; and

WHEREAS, Judge Woodall heard his final oral arguments on September 15, 2020, in the same Nashville courtroom where he made his first appellate argument before the Court as a young attorney; karma was definitely in play as another young attorney presented her first appellate argument during Judge Woodall's final case; and

WHEREAS, in 1982, Thomas Woodall completed a clerkship with Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Mark Walker, the court's first presiding judge, and decided to pursue a career path as an attorney that would someday result in him serving on the Court; and

WHEREAS, after working two years with a firm in Memphis and serving six years as an assistant district attorney for the 24th Judicial District, Judge Woodall moved back home to Dickson to be closer to his aging parents and opened his own firm in 1990; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals in 1996 and subsequently elected by Tennessee voters in 1998, 2006, and 2014; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman of great compassion and social conscience, Judge Woodall played an essential role in developing a judicial assistance program under the Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program (TLAP); and

WHEREAS, while he was serving on the Court of the Judiciary, Judge Woodall became involved with TLAP, serving as a board member, mentor, and frequent speaker for both judges and attorneys on issues involving career burnout, substance abuse, mental health, and other stressors faced by members of the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, a native of Dickson, Thomas Woodall earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Technological University and his law degree from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, he graciously attributes his many accomplishments to "God, my late parents, and my mentors who have so positively influenced me," but we are confident that Judge Woodall's success can be more directly attributed to his integrity, attention to detail, and strong commitment to justice; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that it is a pleasure and a privilege for this body to honor Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Thomas Woodall on the occasion of his retirement after twenty-four years on the bench. We extend to him our gratitude for a difficult job well done and our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.